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Letter dated 29 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you, on the ongoing aggression against Palestinian civilians.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the circulation of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**

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Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your kind attention to the most recent military campaign by the Zionist regime against the innocent Palestinian people, which goes on in flagrant defiance of the most basic principles of international law and the fundamental provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

As media reports indicate, the ongoing incursion into northern Gaza targets civilians and purely civilian infrastructures, destroying among other things the three bridges and disabling the only power plant, thus depriving civilians of basic necessities. Moreover, the intruding forces are battering northern Gazan towns with artillery and firing missiles into residential areas indiscriminately.

The illegal detention of dozens of Palestinian cabinet ministers and members of the Palestinian Parliament by the intruding forces are clear signs that the occupying regime is intent on rendering the democratically elected Palestinian Government inoperative.

Violating Syria's airspace and threatening to hit targets inside that country is equally perturbing. The crisis, if unchecked, may tip towards escalation, engulfing the whole region.

With the Palestinian economy already broken down under an embargo since January and the Palestinians remaining under siege even after the occupiers' withdrawal from Gaza, the new aggression threatens to inflict further enormous suffering on civilians and exacerbate the situation within the Palestinian territory and in the region.

While strongly condemning this latest Zionist criminal act, we consider the aggression that targets civilian infrastructures as collective punishment and war crimes and crimes against humanity in defiance of international humanitarian law. We believe that it is imperative for the international community to get more effectively involved and prevent the Zionists from carrying out their terrorist designs against the Palestinians. The impunity with which they have so far been allowed to carry out their crimes has undoubtedly emboldened them to continue on the same path.

The United Nations has an important role to play in this regard and should act with a view to preventing the Zionist regime from continuing to flout the will of the international community, incorporated in numerous United Nations resolutions. As the ongoing aggression threatens international peace and security, we request that the Security Council carry out its responsibility in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and take necessary and prompt steps with a view to putting an end to the aggression. In my view, your personal intervention should, as always, help prevent the situation to slip out of control.

(*Signed*) Manouchehr **Mottaki**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran